

Dacorum Borough Council Core Strategy Examination in Public, 2012

AMEC on behalf of The Crown Estate (ID: 211068)

Hearing Session: Thursday 11 October 2012 14.00

Issue 8: Meeting Community's Needs

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION

Question 8.2 Policy CS23 refers to Zones being defined in the Green Belt for new school facilities. How will this be achieved?

1. Policy CS23 proposes zones to be defined for new school facilities in the Green Belt. Paragraph 83 of NPPF states that Green Belt Boundaries '*should only be altered in exceptional circumstances through the preparation and review of the Local Plan.*' The Core Strategy is considered to be unsound in that the evidence base in relation to the Green Belt is not robust and does not fully justify the Council's preferred strategy.
2. The location of school facilities needs to be considered as part of a wider review of the Green Belt boundaries along with the consideration of meeting growth needs for employment and housing.
3. In addition, NPPF Paragraph 84 advises that when reviewing Green Belt boundaries local planning authorities should also consider what impacts the revision of Green Belt boundaries would have on the promotion of sustainable patterns of development. New school facilities should therefore be linked to proposals for urban expansion as part of a sustainable growth strategy which avoids the piecemeal erosion of the Green Belt.

Summary to Issue 8

What part of the Core Strategy is unsound?

4. The Core Strategy is considered to be unsound in that the evidence base in relation to the Green Belt is not robust and does not meet the requirements of NPPF (Section 9).

Which test of soundness it fails?

5. It is considered that the Core Strategy fails the tests of justified, effective and consistency with national guidance in respect of the lack of a thorough Green Belt review.

Why it fails

6. No robust assessment has been undertaken to assess whether the proposed locations for new school facilities are the most appropriate in terms of the potential impact of the Green Belt.

The precise change and/or wording sought

7. In order to be found sound it is considered that a full Green Belt review should be undertaken and should include potential locations for new school facilities as part of a wider study considering all growth needs for the Borough.

WORD COUNT: 388